

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3 Radioactive therapeutic seeds include a carrier structure
4 bearing a radioactive isotope and a radiopaque marker. According
5 to several embodiments, the seeds include a central plug provided
6 with an axial marker and a relatively transverse bore extending
7 through the marker. A second marker may be positioned in the
8 bore, thereby distinguishing a seed provided with the second
9 marker relative to a seed not provided with the second marker.
10 According to another embodiment, the isotope is deposited on the
11 outer surface of a hollow radiolucent tube. A biologically-
12 compatible, radiolucent, surface-sealing layer seals the external
13 surface of the tube. A radiopaque marker wire of selected length
14 is positioned in the hollow of the tube. Seeds may be
15 distinguished from one another by providing seeds with marker
16 wires of different lengths. According to other embodiments, the
17 seed includes a cylindrical outer member, and an inner member
18 provided within the outer member and having two large diameter
19 portions and a relatively smaller diameter portion therebetween.
20 A marker is disposed within the inner member, and a radioactive
21 isotope is carried on the inner member. The marker may be drilled
22 to a smaller size. Each embodiment permits at least two groups of
23 seeds to be distinguished from one another by the use of differing
24 marker configurations.